

Instructor: Dina Kameda, M.S.

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Office Hours: Mon 4 – 5 PM; Fri 2:45 – 3:45 PM

Course Materials: <http://www.justice-studies.com>

Office Phone: (408) 924-3225

JS Department Web Site: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Cell Phone: (408) 832-9939 (Between 9 AM – 8 PM)

JUSTICE STUDIES 105, SECTION 3
RESEARCH METHODS IN JUSTICE STUDIES
SPRING 2008

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

This course will systematically cover the basic elements of social science research methodology. We will learn about the necessary components of research methods to understand, critique, design, and carry out sound research. This class will cover: critically reading research on justice issues, conceiving a workable research question, selecting an appropriate method for the research question, designing a research study, ethical issues faced when conducting social science research, and how to make sense of research findings.

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to: identify, locate, read, and utilize scholarly published research on criminal justice and related social science issues; understand which methods are appropriate for different kinds of research questions; pose a research question, and design an appropriate study to answer that question; and evaluate and critique social science research.

PREREQUISITE: BUS 90, STAT 95, SOCS 15, OR SOCI 102 (OR EQUIVALENT) OR INSTRUCTOR CONSENT

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to participating in class discussions and activities, you will be required to: (1) complete the assigned readings prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned; (2) complete a cumulative research project proposal that will be the compilation of several interrelated assignments throughout the semester; (4) take a midterm exam; and (5) take a non-cumulative final exam.

NOTE: Attendance will be taken at every class meeting, and you should always bring your textbook to class.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS:

- 1) Bachman, R., & Schutt, R. K. (2007). *The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (3rd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.
- 2) Two Scantrons (Form 882-E available @ the Spartan Bookstore)

ADDITIONAL READINGS AND HANDOUTS:

Additional readings and handouts will be announced in class, sent via e-mail, and/or may be posted online.

COURSE DROP POLICY/ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first two scheduled class meetings, and who fail to inform prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. ***It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. Monday, February 4, 2008 is the drop deadline.***

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests or quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor, as well as damaging the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course, and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San Jose State University. Policies and procedures regarding add/drop, academic renewal, withdrawal, and academic integrity can be found at: http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

ASSIGNMENTS POLICY & GRADING:

Missed exams can only be made up if a legitimate absence can be substantiated. Legitimate excuses generally include the following: your own serious illness or injury (documented by a physician); a documented death in your immediate family; unavoidable and documented conflict that is school-related (i.e., required by athletic team to be on the road). Only under extreme and unavoidable emergency circumstances will you be able to make up an exam if you have not provided a legitimate excuse prior to your absence. Missed exams will be made up on **Thursday, May 22nd** at a time to be announced, and will be a different format than the original.

Due dates for all assignments, including the final project, are firm deadlines unless formally changed by the instructor and announced in class. Students are responsible for knowing when assignments are due, and for any schedule changes, even if you are absent. Late submissions will only be considered for full credit if the appropriate documentation is provided. The instructor has the discretion to deduct points for each day an assignment is late, or refuse to accept the assignment altogether.

Your final grade for the course will be based upon: weekly participation, performance on the individual proposal assignments, performance the midterm and final exams, and your final research proposal.

The Proposal Assignments (#1-4), and the Final Proposal will be graded based on the following criteria:

(1) Following directions (proper format, timely submission); (2) College level grammar, punctuation, spelling, and APA in-text citations and references (where applicable); and (3) Content (submission of a complete assignment)

NOTE: Revised proposal assignments will only be accepted if the original assignment was complete!

Proposal Assignments:	200 points maximum (4 @ 50 points each)
In Class Midterm: (1 scantron)	50 points maximum
In Class Final Exam: (1 scantron)	50 points maximum
Final Proposal:	200 points maximum
Total Possible:	500 points

ESTIMATED GRADE POINT RANGES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

A RANGE: 450 POINTS OR ABOVE

D RANGE: 329 – 364 POINTS

B RANGE: 405 – 449 POINTS

F: 363 AND BELOW

C RANGE: 365 – 404 POINTS

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR POINTS!

ASSIGN. #1 (DUE FEB 18TH): _____

ASSIGN. #1 REV. (DUE MAR 3RD): _____

ASSIGN. #2, PART B (DUE APR 7TH): _____

ASSIGN. #2, PART B REV. (DUE APR 21ST): _____

ASSIGN. #3 (DUE APR 14TH): _____

ASSIGN. #3 REV. (DUE APR 28TH): _____

ASSIGN. #4 (DUE MAY 9TH): _____

MIDTERM (MAR 10TH): _____

FINAL EXAM (MAY 19TH): _____

FINAL PROPOSAL (DUE MAY 19TH): _____

E-MAIL POLICY:

Please feel free to e-mail the instructor at any time (I check e-mail often); however, the e-mail guidelines are as follows:

- (1) Please include in the “subject line” the course number, your name, and a specific description of your inquiry or comment (e.g., JS105, Dina Kameda, research question). The instructor **will not** respond to “**no subject**” e-mails, or any e-mail where the student is not identified in either the subject line or body of the e-mail.
- (2) Any e-mailed assignments must be sent in one of the following formats as a separate attachment: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, or Word Perfect. Please **do not** copy and paste any assignments into an e-mail, they will not be accepted.
- (3) **ALWAYS RETAIN A COPY OF ANY E-MAIL WITH AN ASSIGNMENT ATTACHED!**

Date	In Class	Homework
Jan 28	Handout(s): Greensheet/schedule; overview of research proposal (term project); Ch. 1 outline; and Assignment #1 instructions Discussion of Assignment #1 Lecture #1: <i>Ch. 1 Science, Society, and Criminological Research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 1 and 2 - Type up (3) potential research topics and more specific research questions, bring to class next week (2/4/08) - E-mail the instructor (dkamedasjsu@aol.com) with your first and last name + the e-mail address you wish to use throughout the semester by 02/04/08
Feb 4	Research topic check-in Video: <i>Quiet Rage</i> (Stanford Prison Experiment) + brief discussion Lecture #2: <i>Ch. 2 The Process & Problems of Criminological Research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 3; Appendix A (A1-17); Appendix B (B1-3) -
Feb 11	Research topic check-in Lecture #3: <i>Ch. 3 Conceptualization and Measurement</i> Handout(s): Assignment #2, Part A instructions Discussion of Assignment #2, Part A MLK Library resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 4; Appendix C (C1-31) - Finish up Assignment #1: due via e-mail next week, 02/18/08
Feb 18	Lecture #4: <i>Ch. 4 Sampling</i> Discussion: Appendix C <i>How to Read a Research Article</i> Handout(s): Scholarly articles and APA format Assignment #1: due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 5 - List of (10) scholarly journal articles related to your topic/hypothesis: due via e-mail on 02/25/08 by midnight, with full reference citations
Feb 25	Lecture #5: <i>Ch. 5 Causation and Research Design</i> Return and discuss Assignment #1 List of (10) scholarly journal articles: due via e-mail by midnight!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 6 - Assignment #1 revision: due via e-mail next week, 03/03/08
Mar 3	Return lists of journal articles Assignment #1 revision: due via e-mail tonight by midnight! Lecture #6: <i>Ch. 6 Experimental Designs</i> Midterm Review: handout + brief overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study for your MIDTERM next week! - Read: Ch. 7
Mar 10	In-class MIDTERM (scantron form 882-E needed) Return Assignment #1 revisions Lecture #7: <i>Ch. 7 Survey Research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 8 and Ch. 10
Mar 17	Lecture #8: <i>Ch. 8 Qualitative Methods</i> Lecture #9: <i>Ch. 10 Analyzing Content</i> Handout(s): Assignment #2, Part B instructions; Assignment #3 instructions Discussion of Assignment #2, Part B and Assignment #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start working on Assignment #3! Do not procrastinate. Due 04/14/08 - Assignment #2, Part B: due 04/07/08 via e-mail
Mar 24	No Class – Spring Break (Instructor available via e-mail)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep working on Assignment #3!

Date	In Class	Homework
Mar 31	<i>No Class – Cesar Chavez Day</i> (Instructor available via e-mail)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: Ch. 12 - Finish Assignment #2, Part B: due next week, 04/07/08
Apr 7	Assignment #3 check-in Assignment #2, Part B: due via e-mail tonight by midnight Lecture #10: <i>Ch. 12 Quantitative Data Analysis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finish up Assignment #3! Due next week, 04/14/08
Apr 14	Assignment #3: due via e-mail tonight by midnight! Lecture #11: <i>Ch. 9 Qualitative Data Analysis</i> Return and discuss Assignment #2, Part B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assignment #2, Part B revision: due 04/28/08 via e-mail
Apr 21	Return and discuss Assignment #3 Handout(s): variable information worksheet; research proposal format; Assignment #4 instructions Assignment #2, Part B revision: due via e-mail tonight by midnight!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assignment #3 revision: due 04/28/08 via e-mail - Complete variable information worksheet for next week (04/28/08), bring to class
Apr 28	Return Assignment #2, Part B revisions Assignment #3 revisions: due via e-mail tonight by midnight! Assignment #4: In-class, step-by-step workshop on data analysis plan	
May 5	SOTES Return Assignment #3 revisions Assignment #4: In-class workshop to finalize data analysis plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assignment #4: due via e-mail on Friday, 05/09/08 by midnight
May 12	Return Assignment #4 Final Exam Review: handout + brief overview Review of Research Proposal format for submission Wrap-up Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study for your FINAL EXAM! - Finish up your Research Proposals
May 19	In-class FINAL EXAM 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM – scantron needed Note earlier start time! Don't be late! <p style="text-align: center;">Final Research Proposal: Due via e-mail tonight by midnight!</p>	<i>Your Final Research Proposal will be returned to you via e-mail.</i>